TWO

LETTERS

From His Excellency

Sir Thomas Fairfax,

ONE

To both Houſes of PARLIAMENT;

Giving an Accompt of what Tranſactions and Proceedings have been betwixt the Kings Majeſty and the Army, ſince His coming into their Quarters.

WITH

Some farther Propoſals in relation to His Majeſty, and the ſpeedy ſettlement of the Peace of the Kingdom.

THE OTHER

A LETTER to the Lord Major, Aldermen and Common-Councel of the City of LONDON,

With ſome PAPERS of the Proceedings of the Treaty with the ARMY.

BY *the appointment of his Excellency Sir* Tho: Fairfax, *and the Councel of War.*

Reading, July 8. 1647.

Signed JOHN RUSHWORTH.

London, Printed for *Laurence Chapman*. IULY 10. 1647.

Mr. Speaker,

I Was ſent unto by the King on Friday laſt, to deſire the Parliament to give way to Him to ſee His Children; and that they might for that purpoſe be ſent to Him: If I may be bold humbly to offer my Opinion, I think the allowance of ſuch a thing may be without the leaſt prejudice to the Kingdom, and yet gain more upon His Majeſty then denying it; and if it be in the prayers of every good man, That His heart may be gained, the performance of ſuch civilities to Him is very ſutable to thoſe Deſires, and will hear well with all men, who (if they can imagine it to be their own caſe) cannot but be ſorry, if His Majeſties natural affections to His Children, in ſo ſmall a thing ſhould not be complyed with; and if any queſtion ſhould be concerning the aſſurance of their return, I ſhall ingage for their return within what time the Parliament ſhall limit.

Upon this occaſion give me leave, I beſeech you, to take notice of ſome Reports ſpread abroad, as if my ſelf and the Officers of the Army were upon ſome underhand Contract or Bargain with the King; and from thence occaſion is taken to ſlander our Integrities, and endeavor a miſunderſtanding betwixt the Parliament and their Army, the fidelity of which to the Parliament and Kingdom, and their affection to it, are the great objects of ma-

ny mens Envies, becauſe they ſee nothing ſo likely to ſettle Right and Freedom, with Truth and Peace to us and poſterity, & to hinder their Deſigns againſt the ſame, as an Harmony or good accord between the Parliament and Army, which is the joy of good men, and it ſhall be our ſtudy to preſerve againſt all Deſigns and Deſigners to the contrary.

To prevent therefore all miſunderſtandings of that kinde, I thought fit with all clearneſs to declare unto you, That we have done nothing, nor ſhall do any thing which we deſire to hide from you or the world, or ſhall not avow to the faces of our greateſt Adverſaries.

Our Deſires concerning a juſt conſideration and ſettlement of the Kings Rights (His Majeſty firſt giving His concurrence to ſettle and ſecure the Rights and Liberties of the Kingdom) We have already publiquely declared in our Repreſentation and Remonſtrance. Since the firſt of thoſe Papers ſent to the Parliament, there have been ſeveral Officers of the Army upon ſeveral occaſions ſent to His Majeſty, the firſt to preſent to Him a copy of the Repreſentation, and after that ſome others to tender Him a copy of the Remonſtrance; upon both which, the Officers ſent were appointed to clear the ſence and intention of any thing in either Paper, whereupon His Majeſty might make any queſtion. Since then, there have alſo been ſome Officers at ſeveral times ſent to His Majeſty about

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His remove from *Hatfield*, to diſſwade (if poſſibly) from *Windſor* or any place ſo neat *London*, to ſome place of further diſtance, anſwerable to what we had deſired of the Parliament.

In all which addreſſes to His Majeſty, We care not who knows what hath been ſaid or done; for as We have nothing to bargain for or to ask, either from His Majeſty or the Parliament, for advantage to our ſelves, or any particular party or intereſt of our own; ſo in all thoſe Addreſſes to His Majeſty We have utterly diſclaimed and diſavowed any ſuch thing, or any Overtures or Thoughts tending that way; But the onely intent and effect of thoſe our Addreſſes hath been, to deſire and endeavor His Majeſties free concurrence with the Parliament, for eſtabliſhing and ſecuring the common Rights and Liberties, and ſettling the peace of the Kingdom; and to aſſure Him, That (the Publique being ſo provided for, with ſuch His Majeſties concurrence) it is fully agreeable to our Principles, and ſhou'd be our deſires and endeavor, That (with, and in ſuch ſettling of the Publique) the Rights of His Majeſties Royal Family ſhould be alſo provided for, ſo as a laſting Peace and Agreement might be ſettled in this Nation: And that, as We had publiquely declared for the ſame in general terms, ſo (if things came to a way of ſettlement) We ſhould not be wanting (in our ſphæres) to own that general Deſire, in any particulars of natural or civil right to His Majeſties Perſon or Family, which might

might not prejudice or again indanger the Publique: and in the mean time, That Hi. Majeſty ſhould finde all perſonal civilities and reſpects from us, with all reaſonable freedom that might ſtand with ſafety, and with the truſt or charge lying upon us concerning His Perſon.

You have here the utmoſt ſum of what hath paſs'd from us to His Majeſty; and We could wiſh all men did rightly underſtand (without miſrepreſentations) every particular wherein (as We know nothing not agreeable to Reaſon, Juſtice, Honeſty or Conſcience, ſo) We thought our ſelves concerned the rather to ſay and do, as We have towards His Majeſty ſince He came within our quarters, becauſe of thoſe common prejudices ſuggeſted againſt us, as if We were utter Enemies to Monarchy, and all Civil Order or Government.

And for that particular of the Duke of *Richmond* and the Two Chapleins lately permitted to attend His Majeſty, It was not done without much reluctancy, becauſe therein We doubted We might be miſunderſtood by the Kingdoms beſt friends.

But upon His Majeſties continuing importunity for it (as a thing very nearly concerning His preſent inward and outward contentment; and conceiving thoſe perſons ſuch (as we hoped) would not do ill offices to prejudice the Peace of the Kingdom, We did give way to it, and the perſons (before they came) had notice of the permiſſion: And as We then thought, ſo We ſtill do think,

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That to allow him ſome ſuch company of perſons leaſt dangerous, whom former acquaintance may make him take pleaſure in; and the allowance of ſome ſuch Chapleins of His own, are things both reaſonable and juſt; and the debarring of that liberty in the latter (We doubt) will but make Him more prejudiced againſt other Miniſters.

In general, We humbly conceive, that to avoid all harſhneſs, and afford all kinde uſage to His Majeſties Perſon, in things conſiſting with the Peace and Safety of the Kingdom, is the moſt Chriſtian, Honorable and Prudent way: And in all things (as the Repreſentation and Remonſtrance of the Army doth expreſs) We think that tender, equitable and moderate dealing, both towards His Majeſty, His Royal Family, and His late party (ſo far as may ſtand with ſafety to the Kingdom, and ſecurity to our common Rights and Liberties) is the moſt hopeful courſe to take away the ſeeds of War or future Feuds amongſt us for poſterity, and to procure a laſting Peace and Agreement in this now diſtracted Nation; To the effecting and ſetling whereof (with a ſecure proviſion firſt to be made for the common Rights and Liberties of the Kingdom, and a due care to preſerve and propagate the Goſpel of Truth & Peace amongſt us) we ſhall hope that neither the Parliament nor His Majeſty will be wanting: And if God ſhall ſee it good to make us any way inſtrumental thereunto, or that We may otherwiſe ſee the ſame accompliſht, We

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ſhall then think our ſelves indeed diſcharged from the publique ingagements We have been called out unto more clearly and effectually then (before ſuch things were ſettled) We could have thought our ſelves to be, and (to demonſtrate our clearneſs from ſeeking ſelf-advantages in what We did) We ſhall thenceforth account it our greateſt happineſs and Honor (if God ſee it good) to be diſingaged and diſmiſt, not onely from our Military charges, but from all other matters of Power or publique imployment whatſoever.

I have in theſe things ſpoke, not in my own Name alone, but in the Name (becauſe I finde it to be the clear ſence of the generality, or at leaſt of the moſt conſiderable part) of the Army, and I am confident you and the Kingdom will never finde it otherwiſe: I ſhall leave it to your favorable conſtruction, and commit all to the goodneſs of God for an happy iſſue. I remain

Reading, July 8. 1647.

Your moſt humble Servant,

T. Fairfax.

For the Right Honorable, The Lords and Commons aſſembled in Parliament.

For

For the Right Honourable the Lord Maior, Aldermen and Common-Councel of the City of LONDON.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

TO the end we may continue a right understanding betwixt you and us all along in the management of this great businesse with the Parliament, (the happie proceedings thereof so much concerning the safety and peace of this Kingdom) we have given your Commissioners this day the copie of a Paper which we presented to the Commissioners of Parliament residing with us; wherein we take notice of the true reasons of the slowe progresse in the Treaty, and declare where the stop remains. And to the end that nothing may be wanting in us which might work toward the speedie settlement of the quiet of this Kingdom; we have humbly offered what we can say will most effectually tend to remove

thoſe incumbrances and letts which ſtand between us and the univerſal good of the Kingdom; and till that be done, it cannot be expected that we ſhould procure the Peace of this Kingdom by a Treaty, but rather give occaſion and opportunity thereby to others to engage us in a ſecond War, which muſt neceſſarily hazard the ruine of this Kingdom, as alſo the certain deſtruction of *Ireland*, the relief whereof we ſhoud moſt effectually apply unto you, were the affairs of *England* but once put into an hopeful poſture. It is a ſudden and ſubſtantial ſettlement of the whole we deſire, in a general, ſafe, and well-grounded Peace, and the eſtabliſhment of ſuch good Laws as may duely and readily render to every man their juſt Rights and Liberties: And for the obtaining of theſe, not onely our intentions had led us to, but we think that all the Blood, Treaſure and Labour ſpent in this War, was for the accompliſhing thoſe very things which are of that concernment both to our ſelves and poſterity, that neither we nor they can live comfortably without them; and thereof we hope your ſelves will have the ſame ſenſe, and therefore improve your intereſt for the obtaining our juſt Deſires in the Propoſals now ſent unto the Parliament; which being granted, and we ſecured from the danger of a War, we ſhall proceed with cheerfulneſſe to the Treaty, and doubt not in a ſhort time to ſee an happie Concluſion,

cluſion, to the ſatisfaction of all honeſt mens Expectation, and that in all our undertakings we ſhall be found men of truth, fully and ſingly anſwering the things we have held forth to the Kingdom in our ſeveral Declarations and Papers, without by or baſe reſpects to any private end or intereſt whatſoever.

READING, *July* 8. 1647.

By the Appointment of His Excellency Sir Thomas Fairfax, *and his Councel of War.*

Signed, Jo. RUSHWORTH, Secretary.

FINIS.